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CHILE 9-11

NIGHT LD

BY CHARLES E. PADILLA

SANTIAGO (UPI) -- CHILEAN MILITARY JUNTA LEADER GEN. AUGUSTO PINOCHET WEDNESDAY OFFERED TO ALLOW POLITICAL PRISONERS TO LEAVE CHILE IF THE SOVIET UNION AND COMMUNIST CUBA WOULD LET AN EQUAL NUMBER OF THEIR POLITICAL PRISONERS GO.

PINOCHET ISSUED THE CHALLENGE IN A SPEECH MARKING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENT MILITARY COUP THAT OUSTED THE LEFT-WING GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE.

PINOCHET ANNOUNCED THAT THE STATE OF INTERNAL WAR DECLARED A YEAR AGO WAS LIFTED BUT A STATE OF SIEGE AND NIGHTLY CURFEW WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE.

THE JUNTA LEADER SAID "THE GOVERNMENT IS READY TO AUTHORIZE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME CASES OF SPECIAL GRAVENESS, THE DEFINITE EXIT OF THOSE WHO DESIRE TO LEAVE THE NATIONAL TERRITORY."

PINOCHET SAID THE OFFER COVERED "IN SOME CASES" PERSONS ALREADY CONDEMNED BY MILITARY TRIBUNALS.

HE CONDITIONED HIS OFFER, HOWEVER, TO A SIMILAR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS BY MOSCOW AND HAVANA.

PINOCHET SAID THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IT A "MORAL DUTY, BEFORE MATERIALIZING THE DECISION" TO "CHALLENGE THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA TO, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, CONCEDE THE RIGHT FOR A SIMILAR NUMBER OF PRISONERS TO LEAVE THOSE NATIONS".

"OUR WILL IS CLEARLY EXPRESSED," HE SAID. "NOW IT IS THE SOVIET AND CUBAN GOVERNMENTS, WHICH WE HAVE SELECTED FOR BEING THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS WHO HAVE HAD THE AUDACITY TO HEAD ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US, WHO HAVE THE WORD."

PINOCHET SAID ALSO THAT SALARIES FOR ALL CHILEANS WOULD BE INCREASED BY 23.1 PER CENT OCTOBER 1 WITH OTHER RAISES DUE AS THE COST OF LIVING INCREASED. CHILE'S INFLATIONARY RATE THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS 203 PER CENT.

PINOCHET SPOKE BEFORE MILITARY, CIVILIAN, CHURCH AND DIPLOMATIC LEADERS IN THE GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUP WAS CELEBRATED WITH ONLY TWO OFFICIAL ACTS, PINOCHET'S SPEECH AND A FIELD MASS AT SANTIAGO'S ACADEMY OF WAR IN HONOR OF TROOPS KILLED IN THE COUP.

IN ANNOUNCING THE END TO THE STATE OF INTERNAL WAR, PINOCHET SAID "THIS DOES NOT SIGNIFY THE END OF THE JURIDICAL EMERGENCY" AND THE MILITARY TRIBUNALS WOULD CONTINUE TO JUDGE PERSONS CONSIDERED TO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES DURING THE ALLENDE REGIME.

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